



# At a Glance

*Catalyst for Improving the Environment*

## Why We Did This Review

Chesapeake Bay partners and the media have expressed concerns on the slow progress of Bay cleanup. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently stated that key water quality and wildlife habitat restoration goals of the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement will not be met by 2010 as planned. We conducted this audit to answer the question: Has EPA effectively targeted funds toward grant projects that should maximize environmental benefit in the Chesapeake Bay?

## Background

The Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries have been on EPA's impaired waters list since 1998. The Chesapeake 2000 Agreement established the goals and commitments to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and its living resources.

For further information, contact our Office of Congressional and Public Liaison at (202) 566-2391.

To view the full report, click on the following link:  
[www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2006/20060906-2006-P-00032.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2006/20060906-2006-P-00032.pdf)

## EPA Grants Supported Restoring the Chesapeake Bay

### What We Found

EPA awarded assistance agreements (grants) that contributed toward meeting the goals of the Clean Water Act and the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement. These grants funded activities designed primarily to: reduce the nutrients and sediment entering the Bay and its tributaries, monitor ongoing efforts to restore Bay water quality, and model (estimate) the results of Bay implementation strategies.

In fiscal years 2003, 2004, and 2005, Congress appropriated \$23 million each year for EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program. In each of those years, EPA awarded about \$8 million for State implementation grants and \$7 million for technical and other grants for specific projects. EPA used the remaining \$8 million to fund EPA personnel and office management, interagency agreements, and congressional earmarks.

EPA funded State restoration programs that designed and installed best management practices, monitored the progress and results of ongoing projects, and informed EPA's partners and the public of their impacts on Bay water quality. EPA also funded technical project grants to: collect and track data on implementation efforts; model (estimate) future pollution levels and reductions gained from activities; monitor water quality and pollution levels; restore and protect fish and other living organisms; and educate the public and stakeholders about Bay restoration progress, obstacles, and strategies. These efforts contributed to EPA's overall Bay restoration program. EPA estimated, based on computer modeling, that as of March 2006 the program partners had achieved 37 percent of the nitrogen reduction goal, 53 percent of the phosphorus reduction goal, and 47 percent of the sediment reduction goal.

EPA's Chesapeake Bay Program Office responded to the draft report and concurred with our conclusion. The report does not contain recommendations.